

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE
TO GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS

1. ON APRIL 25 A WELL-ATTENDED SESSION OF THE HOUSE INTER-
NATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (HIRC) HEARD TESTIMONY FROM
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KENNETH RUSH, ATLANTIC COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND FORMER AMBAS-
SADOR TO FRANCE AND FRG, AND UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PROFESSOR
ALBERT WOHLSTETTER IN FAVOR OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRO-
POSALS.

2. AMBASSADOR RUSH TESTIFIED THAT THE EMBARGO REPRESENTED
A DISCRIMINATORY APPLICATION OF LAW AGAINST AN ALLY AND HAD

HAD ONLY HARMFUL EFFECTS. HE URGED LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AND ADOPTION OF AN EVEN-HANDED POLICY TOWARD GREECE AND TURKEY AS A MEANS OF ENHANCING NATO SECURITY, ENCOURAGING A GREEK-TURKISH RAPPROCHEMENT, PROMOTING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, AND MAINTAINING TURKEY AS A FACTOR OF STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. PROFESSOR WOHLSTETTER'S TESTIMONY INCLUDED AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TURKEY TO THE SECURITY OF NATO, THE US, GREECE, AND THE MIDDLE EAST. IN REFUTING THE PROPOSITION THAT NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGIES MAKE TURKEY OF MINOR MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE, HE ASSERTED THAT SOPHISTICATED NUCLEAR WEAPON

DELIVERY SYSTEMS CANNOT REPLACE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS OF INTERMEDIATE AND CLOSE-IN RANGE. WITH REGARD TO DEFENSE OF THE PERSIAN GULF AREA, WHICH HAS IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR OIL-IMPORTING NATIONS, HE SAID THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF TURKISH AIRSPACE DRASTICALLY AFFECTS WHAT THE USSR CAN DO AS COMPARED TO WHAT THE US CAN DO.

4. CONCERNING CYPRUS, BOTH RUSH AND WOHLSTETTER VIEWED THE EMBARGO AS THE GREATEST SINGLE DETERRENT TO PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. WOHLSTETTER STATED THAT WHILE NO ONE COULD GUARANTEE CYPRUS WOULD BECOME A PARADISE OF HARMONY, AT LEAST WITH A DISCONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO THERE WOULD BE AN INCENTIVE FOR THE PARTIES TO LAY ASIDE THEIR DELAYING UNCLASSIFIED

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TACTICS AND GET THE NEGOTIATIONS GOING. HE ALSO THOUGHT THE RECENT TURKISH PROPOSALS HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING AND THAT PROLONGATION OF NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT BEEN THE TURKS' FAULT. RATHER, THE GREEKS, SEEING THE SITUATION AS A ZERO-SUM GAME IN WHICH ANYTHING BAD FOR TURKEY IS GOOD FOR GREECE, HAVE TAKEN AN INTRANSIGENT POSITION IN ORDER TO FORESTALL NEGOTIATIONS AND KEEP THE EMBARGO ON.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON WHETHER THE EMBARGO WAS NEEDED AS A PENALTY FOR TURKISH VIOLATION OF US LAW, RUSH AND WOHLSTETTER MAINTAINED THAT

-- TURKEY HAD VIOLATED AN ARMS AGREEMENT, NOT US LAW (WHICH HAS NO FORCE IN FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS)

-- VERY PUNITIVE ACTION AGAINST TURKEY HAD EXISTED FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, AND THE TURKS SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED FOREVER

-- IMPOSITION OF THE EMBARGO, SINCE IT WAS APPLIED SELECTIVELY ONLY TO TURKEY UPON VIOLATION OF AN ARMS AGREEMENT AND NOT TO OTHERS (FRANCE IN ALGERIA AND INDOCHINA; FRANCE

AND THE UK IN SUEZ; PAKISTAN/INDIA; ISRAEL IN LEBANON),
REPRESENTED A PARTISAN-EMOTIONAL RESPONSE RATHER THAN THE
ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND MORALITY

-- EVEN IF VIEWED AS A PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATION OF AN
AGREEMENT, THE EMBARGO SHOULD BE LIFTED IN ORDER TO HALT
FURTHER DETERIORATION OF NATO SECURITY RESULTING FROM THE
EMBARGO.

6. COPIES OF WOHLSTETTER AND RUSH PREPARED STATEMENTS
POUCHED ACTION ADDRESSEES. VANCE

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